

Hello everyone,

I want to start off by thanking everybody in the audience for coming. It means so much for all of us graduates that you have taken time out of your beautiful Saturday to come support us and watch our ceremony.

Graduation is a time when we start to really think about our futures, whether we are going to college, a trade school, into the military, or even straight into the workforce, I know all of us have something great to look forward to ahead. However, I also think graduation is the perfect time to look back at all the memories we have made throughout our high school experience. Prom, homecoming, sporting events, concerts, and travelling for school events are all great memories I have made these past few years that I hope I never forget.

Over the course of these last four years, I have grown very close with my classmates. In eighth grade, if somebody told me that I would be friends with some of the people I am friends with now, I would have never believed it. The time we've spent in high school together has taught us a lot about each other and ourselves. We learned that by coming together, we can accomplish great feats as a class. Even as freshmen, our Michigan homecoming hall foreshadowed the great things we could accomplish together in the future. Both our basketball and football teams came back from huge half-time deficits to win important games for Gladstone. The many challenges we overcame together have

only brought us closer to one another. The bond the GHS Class of 2017 has is so strong. (Even stronger than Dean)

Ten years from now we won't remember the tests or the homework or the drama that happened. Nobody will even remember this speech. What we will not forget about high school are all the memories we have made with our friends. I know that I will always remember Bergquist's extreme enthusiasm at each and every sporting event, Sam's outstanding harmonica solo, and Casey's chemical shower test. I will remember crying after winning the homecoming football game, and the crowd's excitement on the field afterward. I will remember taking late night trips to Taco Bell with my friends or driving all around the county with them to catch Pokémon. I'll never forget Jody's questionable tweets, Noah's campaign to buy a Gucci tux, or Tasi's uncanny ability to bring so many people together.

Dr. Seuss once said, "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory." Looking back on my time throughout high school, this quote couldn't be more true. While all of these events were taking place, I never would have thought I would be making lifelong memories. Now that high school is over, I am able to take a step back and realize these memories we have made together as a class are one of the most valuable pieces of information I am taking away from the high school.

I want to thank every single person in this class for the memories we have made together throughout the years. It has been such a fun and memorable thirteen years that I wouldn't want to spend with a different group of people. It's been an honor to have the opportunity to speak to everyone one last time and share some memories with you. I wish all of you well in your future endeavors, and I hope you can create memories with people throughout your lives as fond as the ones you have given me. Thank you.